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AUTHOR	Torrance, E. Paul
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ABSTRACT

This book reports on a 40-year longitudinal study of factors that foster or inhibit creativity over time. Students in elementary grades were originally evaluated from 1958 to 1964. Follow-up in 1980 led to development of a Manifesto for Children which summarized conclusions in the form of guidance for aphorisms such as "Don't be afraid to fall in love with something and pursue it with intensity." A major finding of all the follow-up studies was that after 30 years, intelligence, creativity, and academic achievement were less important in predicting creative output than certain personality characteristics. The first four chapters cover the origin of the Manifesto; background and overview and procedures and subjects of the 40-year study; and major statistical results (prediction of publicly recognized achievements). The remaining six chapters focus on six personality characteristics or attitudes associated with creative output: (1) falling in love with your work; (2) learning to know your greatest strengths; (3) expectations and playing your own game; (4) not being well rounded; (5) loving the work you do; and (6) learning the skills of interdependence and shared creativity. Appended is a checklist of characteristics of "Beyonders," individuals with such characteristics. (DB)

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